

Appln. No.: 09/640,103  
Amendment Dated December 30, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of July 30, 2004

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**Amendments to the Claims:** This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic message processing system arranged to receive electronic messages, the system comprising:

means for storing a plurality of rules;

at least one a-text analyzer;

a respective rule engine associated with the at least one text analyzer and with the rule storage means,

the at least one text analyzer and the associated rule engine being co-operable to apply ~~one or more rules~~ at least one rule to the content of a received electronic message and to generate ~~one or more results~~ at least one result based on the application of the ~~or each~~ said at least one rule;

a classification module co-operable with the at least one text analyzer and the associated rule engine and arranged to classify the electronic message into ~~one or more~~ at least one message categories ~~category~~ based on said ~~one or more results~~ at least one result,

wherein the rules are arranged into a plurality of rule sets, the classification module being arranged to cause the at least one text analyzer in association with the associated rule engine to apply ~~one or more~~ at least one rule set ~~of the plurality of rule sets~~ to the message content in accordance with a hierarchical structure ~~whereby where~~ in the or each at least one result generated by application of the at least one rule set to the message content determines the at least one next rule set, ~~or rule sets~~, to be applied.

2. (Currently Amended) An electronic message processing system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the at least one text analyzer and the associated rule engine are arranged to generate a respective result set for the ~~or each~~ at least one rule set applied to the message content, the classification module being arranged to determine respectively from the

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~~or each~~ at least one result of the ~~or each~~ at least one result set whether to classify the message in a category or to cause a further rule set to be applied to the message content.

3. (Original) An electronic message processing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~[[a]]~~ text analyzer includes the rule engine.

4. (Original) An electronic message processing system as claimed in claim 3, wherein the classification module is arranged to instantiate a respective instance of the text analyzer for each rule set, each text analyzer instance being arranged to apply its respective rule set to the message content.

5. (Original) An electronic message processing system as claimed in claim 4, wherein each text analyzer instance is associated with a respective lexical analysis tool.

6. (Original) An electronic message processing system as claimed in claim 5, wherein the ~~each~~ lexical analysis tool includes a dictionary.

7. (Original) An electronic message processing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rule storage means comprises a plurality of rule files, each rule file containing a respective rule set.

8. (Currently Amended) A classification module for use in an electronic message processing system, the system comprising means for storing a plurality of rules; at least one text analyzer; a respective rule engine associated with the at least one text analyzer and with the rule storage means, the at least one text analyzer and the ~~associated~~ rule engine being co-operable to apply ~~one or more rules~~ at least one rule to the content of an electronic message received by the system and to generate ~~one or more results~~ at least one result based on the application of the ~~or each~~ at least one rule,

the classification module being arranged for co-operation with the at least one text analyzer and the ~~associated~~ rule engine and further arranged to classify the electronic message into ~~one or more~~ at least one message ~~categories~~ category based on said ~~one or more results~~ at least one result,

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wherein the rules are arranged into a plurality of rule sets, the classification module being arranged to cause the at least one text analyzer in association with the associated rule engine to apply ~~one or more~~ at least one rule set[[s]] to the message content in accordance with a hierarchy ~~whereby wherein the or each~~ at least one result generated by the application of ~~one the~~ at least one rule set to the message content determines the at least one next rule set, ~~or rule sets,~~ to be applied.

9. (Currently Amended) In an electronic message processing system arranged to receive electronic messages, the system comprising means for storing a plurality of rules; at least one text analyzer; a respective rule engine associated the at least one text analyzer and with the rule storage means, the at least one text analyzer and the associated rule engine being co-operable to apply ~~one or more rules~~ at least one rule to the content of a received electronic message and to generate ~~one or more results~~ at least one result based on the application of ~~the or each~~ said at least one rule; and a classification module co-operable with the at least one text analyzer and the associated rule engine and arranged to classify the electronic message into ~~one or more~~ at least one message categories ~~categories~~ category based on said ~~one or more results~~ at least one result, a method of classifying an electronic message comprising:

arranging the rules into a plurality of rule sets;

causing the at least one text analyzer, in association with the associated rule engine, to apply ~~one or more~~ at least one rule set[[s]] of the plurality of rule sets to the message content in accordance with a hierarchy; and

determining the at least one next rule set, ~~or rule sets,~~ to be applied depending on the ~~or each~~ at least one result generated by application of ~~the a~~ preceding rule set in the hierarchy to the message content.

10. (Original) A method of classifying an electronic message as claimed in claim 9, further including:

instantiating a respective instance of the text analyzer for each rule set; and

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arranging each text analyzer instance to apply its respective rule set to the message content.

11. (Original) An electronic message processing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electronic messages to be processed include unstructured text-based messages.

12. (Original) An electronic mail (e-mail) processing system comprising an electronic message processing system as claimed in claim 1.

13. (Original) An SMS message processing system comprising an electronic message processing system as claimed in claim 1.

14. (New) An electronic message processing system arranged to receive electronic messages, the system comprising:

means for storing a plurality of rules;

a classification module arranged to cause at least one rule of the plurality of rules to be applied to the content of a received electronic message to generate at least one result,

wherein the rules are arranged into a plurality of rule sets, the classification module being arranged to cause at least one rule set to be applied to the message content in accordance with the hierarchical structure whereby the at least one result generated by application of the at least one rule set to the message content determines at least one next rule set to be applied.

15. (New) A classification module for use in an electronic message processing system for receiving electronic messages, the system comprising means for storing a plurality of rules, the classification module being arranged to cause at least one rule to be applied to the content of a received electronic message to generate at least one result, wherein the rules are arranged into a plurality of rule sets, the classification module being arranged to cause at least one rule set of the plurality of rule sets to be applied to the message content in accordance with

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a hierarchical structure whereby the at least one result generated by application of the at least one rule set to the message content determines at least one next rule set to be applied.

16. (New) In an electronic message processing system arranged to receive electronic messages, the system comprising: means for storing a plurality of rules; a classification module arranged to cause at least one rule of the plurality of rules to be applied to the content of a received electronic message to generate at least one result, wherein the rules are arranged into a plurality of rule sets, a method of classifying an electronic message comprising:

causing at least one rule set of the plurality of rule sets to be applied to the message content in accordance with a hierarchy; and

determining the at least one next rule set to be applied depending on the at least one result generated by application of a preceding rule set in the hierarchy to the message content.

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